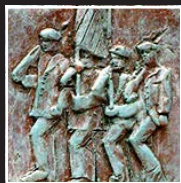
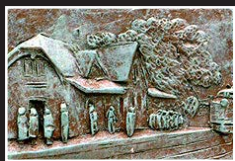


"Tribute to Our Veterans"

at Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring honors the brave men and women of our military who have served with courage and loyalty in times of war and peace.



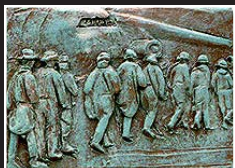
Three separate pieces of art pay homage to veterans and historic landmarks, with one piece representing Montgomery County, one depicting the State of Maryland, -and one honoring veterans nationwide. Each contains an etched glass panel with poignant reproductions of letters penned by veterans.



Also etched into the three pieces of glass are the names of all seven uniformed service

branches, which include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Commissioned Corps.

The glass panels are mounted on bronze bas relief bases that pay tribute to the five branches of the military, depicting honor guards from each service branch and the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. Also illustrated on the bases are scenes of well-known battlefields and other historical landmarks.



Noted Frederick County sculptor **Antonio Tobias "Toby" Mendez** created the artwork for Veterans Plaza.

His commissions include the three bas reliefs at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington D.C.; a statue of Danny Thomas and three children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; the Teammates, four bronze sculptures of famous Boston Red Sox players at Fenway Park; and a bust for the Thurgood Marshall Memorial in Annapolis, Maryland.

Andrew Carroll and The Legacy Project contributed veteran letters from their collection. The letters were reproduced as they were originally written, including any errors.



Photo by Alan Bowser, Silver Spring, MD
Veterans Plaza Dedication - Veterans Day, November 11, 2010

Veterans Plaza was designed by **Machado & Silveti Architects and Richard Burck Associates, Inc.**

Costello Construction of Maryland constructed Veterans Plaza.



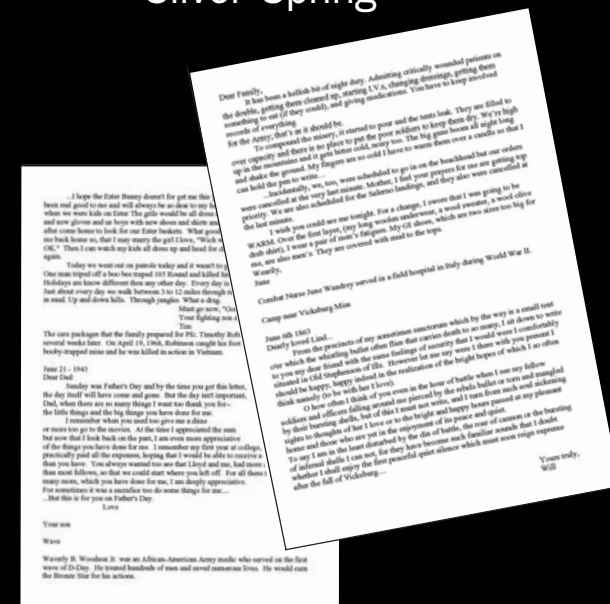
Department of General Services
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs

Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of General Services



Tribute to Our Veterans

Veterans Plaza
One Veterans Place
Fenton and
Ellsworth Streets
Silver Spring



TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS



Montgomery County Panel

The Montgomery County panel features etched images of local importance, including pictures of two military personnel, Company K from World War I and the two former Silver Spring armories. Letters sent home by veterans during World War II provide a window into Montgomery County's past. Also included is a letter from General Schwarzkopf to an active duty nurse and recent widow of a fallen soldier from the first Gulf War.

The bas reliefs include bronzes honoring the 29th Infantry Division; the Silver Spring train station that transported troops to and from the war effort during World War II; modern military personnel heading to war; the Army Honor Guard wearing the shoulder patch and flash of Walter Reed; and the Marine Corps Honor Guard marching.

[illegible]

Captured in the Pacific during World War II, James Coleman was a POW for three years. Recuperating at the Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, D.C., Coleman had lost nearly half his body weight as a POW; he credits letter writing with his recovery.

Maryland Panel

A quote from General George Washington “Good God, what brave fellows I must this day lose,” introduces the panel honoring Maryland’s veterans. The panel features letters from the veterans of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War.

The bronze sculptures on this panel include the Maryland flag, the only state flag that was originally carried as the colors of a regiment; images of two locations of major conflicts in Maryland, Ft. McHenry (War of 1812) and Burnside Bridge (Battle of Antietam); the Navy Honor Guard at the Naval Academy; and the Airforce Honor Guard.

June 5, 1944

Dear Sir,

...Everything is going along fine with me. Nothing new or exciting,
just taking it easy waiting for things to happen the same as everyone
in the states. Here now will be a great day, won't it? I
may be surprised how well it will turn out the world
but it just can't be helped, it has to happen.

My mail as coming through just swell, had quite a few letters this week,
most from "I" who is more than all,
it is so easy with people saying that I'll handle around the word to say,
so I will close with regards to all the friends around the world
and love to Mother and all the others, write soon always glad to hear from you
be good and take it easy, love of love,

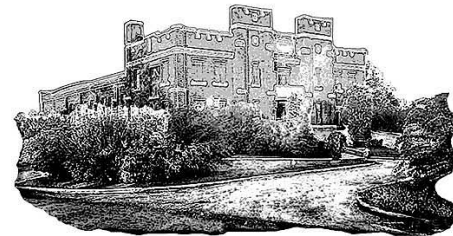

[illegible]

File. Don Bart of the 20th Infantry Division provides his wife with a momentary momentary account of going ashore at Normandy on the morning of June 6, 1944 (D-Day).

National Panel

To honor our veterans throughout the country, the national panel presents veterans' letters from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Bosnian conflict. The panel quotes a moving passage from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, "...we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."

The bronze sculptures on this panel include the American flag, which is framed by two reliefs — one representing airplanes cued up for take off and the other depicting sailors marching up a gangway. The relief to the far left depicts the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery and the relief to the far right depicts the Coast Guard Honor Guard.



Dear Sir,

June 29, 1946

Just a short note to say hello, and also to say that I'm more than sorry that I didn't get to see you when I was home last, but the time was very short, and I wasn't feeling any to hot, fact is, I didn't want to make the leave, but you know how it is - when they give you some time off, you just have to take it and not ask questions.

-All of the news sounds good, Europe the Pacific and everywhere. So with "B" day passed, the bookies stopped betting on the new world record. It isn't much we can do now but hope for the best.

With all we have I don't think victory should be hard.

Danny Lee.

Don J. Lee Y2; USNR, wrote this letter to Nellie V. Hewitt in Silver Spring, Maryland. Nellie nicknamed Don was friends and a correspondent to many men in service and saved all the letters they wrote home during WWII.

